Allocation of rice under APL category to Andhra Pradesh

38. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rice allocated under APL category to Andhra Pradesh has been reduced from 1.31 lakh tonnes a month;

(b) if so, the reasons behind this decline in allocation;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh requested personally to restore the State's quota of rice for PDS under the APL category; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action so far been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The allocations of foodgrains for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Therefore, in view the declining stock position of rice in the Central Pool, a uniform decision was taken to rationalize rice allocations of the APL category under the TPDS *w.e.f.* April, 2007 by linking them to the offtake figures of the earlier three years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06. However, in view of higher offtake in Andhra Pradesh during that period, there was no reduction in the allocation to Andhra Pradesh on account of the above rationalization.

Further, in view the constraints on availability of rice in the Central Pool due to lower procurement during KMS 2006-07 and KMS 2007-08 than overall demands from States/UTs, allocations for APL category to States/UTs for 2008-09 have been made on the basis of average of offtake level of APL rice during 2006-07 and 2007-08. The allocation of rice to Andhra Pradesh for the APL category got revised from 176089 tons to 131334 tons per month from April, 2003 onwards. There has been no further reduction in the allocation of rice for the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) In view of requests of State Government, a special additional incentive based *adhoc* allocation of 2 lakh tons of rice for APL category has been made from October, 2008 to February, 2009. It has also been decided to continue this additional *adhoc* allocation of APL rice to Andhra Pradesh upto September, 2009 depending upon completion of monthly targets of rice procurement.

Import price of wheat

39. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the import price of wheat and the total quantity of wheat imported during the year 2006 and 2007;

(b) whether it is a fact that the price paid during the year 2007 is almost 150 per cent to 200 per cent more than the previous year; and